

Pioneers of Alienation: The Transformations

Elmo tormented himself. What if Citizen Hearse-Ferari finally kicked him out, he went to live with his mother, Butch went to live with HIS mother, their MOTHERS were neighbors, Butch's mother invited her friends to their house-warming, she forgot to buy sugar, they RAN OUT of sugar, and the next thing he knew there's BUTCH at the door...

PSSST! Got any SUGAR? I'm not going to beat you up...

In the second part of his essay in *The Canada Lancet* 11.1 (1878), Workman attempts another definition of Pareisis. It is painless, or at least without head-pain (1), mainly afflicts men, and advances, or rather has been thought to advance, in three stages:

It has been usual to speak of the first stage as that of incubation; of the second, as that of full development, or pronounced maniacal disorder; and of the third as that of established dementia, with unequivocal subversion of both bodily and mental competency. (2)

He extracts the most melodramatic elements from the situation, as he describes the patient's weeping friends, after reason no longer holds sway, forced to submit him to the extrinsic control of the asylum (2). The tableau seems to be almost a part of the disease, another symptom at the end of the first stage.

Usually the first physical manifestation, which would mark the beginning of the second stage, is that peculiar blunting of speech articulation, or tongue-lameness, which so closely resembles the thickened utterance of drunk persons (3). Other symptoms include a paretic irregularity in the gait (3), and the third a keen appetite, than which no symptom is more significant (3). This might alone have led to some diagnostic confusion, suggests this Irish doctor, because of the normal voracity of English eaters.

Workman illustrates the final stage with the case of one Sam Alderdice, formerly an expert hunter, whose only word for food was duck, his gastronomic beau-ideal (3). He is Thomas Moore's vase in which roses has once been distilled (3-4), broken but dignified somewhat by some vestigial capacity for what it once held whole. Ever the moralist and social critic, Workman cannot forbear drawing the obvious moral:

The mind that gathers and skilfully distils the roses blooming on life's pathway, may, even when shattered by disease, give out fragrant perfumes, whilst that which has become saturated with the foetid emanations of poisonous weeds, must disgust, or corrupt, all that approach it. (4)

Osama knocked Cowboy off the Beastly steps. He got brain damage, and died in Thing Street. Porko's predecessor as Super at Emile Durkheim committed suicide by taking too many pills and died a few blocks down Thing Street. Fellini, Butch, and the rest of THE OLD GANG ransacked his apartment before anyone could remove his body. Then they forged his last welfare cheque...

The THIRD last Super stayed on after she resigned, but had trouble with the stairs, so she'd throw her garbage over the fire-escape. It stank in the summer. In the winter, froze to